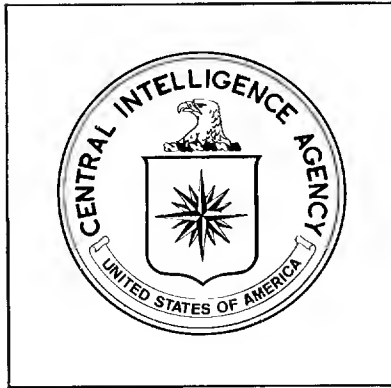


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STAFF NOTES:

Western Europe Canada International Organizations

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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS

Portuguese Communists Determined to Regain Waning Influence	1
West Germans Deny Terrorist Attack Imminent	3

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Portuguese Communists Determined to Regain
Waning Influence

Portuguese Communists yesterday vowed to continue their campaign in the north to reassert the party's presence there.

Their initial foray into the north, a party rally on Saturday in the town of Alcobaca, proved that the anti-Communists are equally determined to be rid of them. The Communists, now experiencing the same type of harassment faced by the more conservative parties several months ago, are demanding that the military guarantee the right of free assembly.

They have scheduled another demonstration tomorrow in Porto, claiming they have sufficient power to respond and "smash the counterrevolutionaries." Anti-Communists around Porto are certain to react to this second challenge and more violence may result because the Communists have promised to "take precautions" against a repetition of events in Alcobaca.

Pro-Communist Prime Minister Goncalves, under heavy pressure to resign, publicly admitted Saturday that his new government--now over a week old--is unable to function because of the split in the armed forces. He appealed to the people to demand a quick solution to the "political ambiguities" dividing the military and political parties which prevent the cabinet from dealing with Portugal's more pressing problems. Goncalves promised that he and his left-wing cabinet would not "shirk their responsibilities." The statement will do little to gain support for Goncalves, but it does make clear to those opposing him that he will not step down voluntarily.

August 18, 1975

SECRET

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25X1C The dissident officers in the Armed Forces Movement are continuing to circulate the anti-regime document drafted by former foreign minister Antunes, hoping to gauge support among the rank and file before moving against Goncalves. According to [REDACTED] the cautious officers believe it could take as long as a month to get the support they want and they may not plan any concrete action before then.

The dissidents are clearly hesitant to move against their fellow officers and may lose their advantage if they continue to delay. The Socialists and other anti-Communist civilian groups, however, can be expected to continue pressuring them, particularly if the Communist counteroffensive in the north continues. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/Controlled Dissem)

August 18, 1975

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West Germans Deny Terrorist Attack
Imminent

The West German Federal Criminal Office has denied newspaper reports that an international band of terrorists is preparing to stage a spectacular attack of some kind with the object of directly freeing, or winning the release of, members of the Baader-Meinhof gang now on trial in Stuttgart.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, citing information released by the "Parliamentary-Political Press Service," reported on August 12 that a group of German, French, Japanese, and Argentine terrorists would participate in the alleged attack. The press service, in turn, referred to a report supposedly issued by a German-French commission that was preparing for a meeting on August 22 between the German and French interior ministers.

The West German security officials also said there has been no increase in anti-terrorist protective measures. The authorities did admit that they are maintaining maximum vigilance throughout West Germany because they operate on the premise that politically-motivated terrorists may strike at any time.

Since the Munich Olympics, West Germans, and the West German press in particular, are especially sensitive to reports concerning possible terrorist activities. The official denials--and the admission that vigilance remains high--will not put an end to similar allegations as long as the Baader-Meinhof group remains in the headlines and so many loony tunes run loose in West Germany. (Confidential)

August 18, 1975

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